

In the Office Action claims 1-3, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonnema, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,726,490) in view of Kristoffersson (U.S. Patent No. 5,685,452), and claims 4 a were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bonnema, et al. in view of Kristoffersson and Thomas (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,098). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Bonnema, et al. disclose a circular hollow lid with flat upper and lower sides and an elongated channel 41 which extends from one edge to the center of the lid. Kristoffersson discloses a container bottom member 1 having parallel elevations or ridges 5 on the top side which form parallel recesses which extend to opposite edges of the bottom member. In Figs. 1-8 the bottom member has upper parallel ridges 5 which cross lower parallel ridges 5. In Figs. 9-11, the bottom member 1 has only one level of parallel ridges 5. In the embodiments of Figs. 1-11, the parallel ridges 5 of the bottom member 1 which define the upper surface of the bottom member 1 all define parallel recesses which extend to the outer edges of the bottom member. In Figs. 3-11, it appears that the upper side of the bottom member 1 has a surrounding recess which extends inward of the outer side wall and around the ends of the ridges 5. Thus the parallel recesses formed by the ridges 5 extend to the surrounding recess.

It is not seen that there is any suggestion or reason for employing the container bottom member of Kristoffersson as a lid in Bonnema, et al. or for employing the teaching of Kristoffersson to form the lid of Bonnema, et al.. The lid of Bonnema, et al. is hollow formed by upper and lower flat walls 36 and 38 and has an elongated channel 41 extending from one edge to the center of the lid whereas the bottom member of Kristoffersson does not have upper and lower walls forming a completely hollow interior nor does it have a channel extending inward from one edge. Kristoffersson on the other hand discloses a bottom member 1 having a lower flat side and an upper side with ridges 5. If the teaching of Kristoffersson was applied to Bonnema, et al. it is assumed that the ridges would not be formed on the insides of walls 36 or 38 or on the outside of upper wall 36 since the lid may be walked on by persons when

installed in a sump well. If ridges were formed on the bottom member wall 38, they may give more support to the wall 38 but not to the upper wall 36. What would stop the upper wall 36 from caving in if it was stepped on by a person? Thus, it is submitted that there is no suggestion by the two references to apply the ridges of Kristoffersson to the double wall and hollow lid of Bonnema, et al. and no desire to do so.

Moreover, even if the teaching of Kristoffersson was applied to Bonnema, et al. to their lid, the lid still would not be the same as that set forth in claims 1-25. Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, and 15-17 require the area of the lower surface to be greater than the total area surrounded by the outer edges of the recesses. This is not disclosed or suggested by Kristoffersson. In all embodiments of Kristoffersson, the recesses appear to have areas much greater than the upper level of projections 5. This is clearly shown in all of the figures of the patent.

Claims 9, 10, 13, and 14 require the lower surface to be generally planar. If the upper level of projections 5 and the lower level of projections 5 of Kristoffersson, are defined as a surface, obviously this surface is not planar. Note also the projections 5 of Kristoffersson curve downwardly as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and hence are not planar in this portion.

All of the claims require the outer edges of the recesses to be spaced from the outer edge of the member or from the outer edge of the lower surface of the member. As pointed out previously, the recesses of Kristoffersson extend to the outer edge of the bottom member 1 and hence are not spaced from the outer edge of the bottom member 1.

Claims 15-17, 19, 21, 24 and 25 also require one of the recesses formed in the lower surface to have dimensions transverse to each other which are greater than the dimensions of said shorter outer edges of the other recesses. It is not seen that this structure is disclosed or suggested in either of Bonnema, et al. or Kristoffersson.

Claims 8, 10, 11, 14, and 17 require the member of the lid to be solid. The lid of Bonnema, et al. is not solid nor is there any suggestion to make the lid solid.

Claim 17 requires an upper recess formed in the upper surface at least partially in alignment with said second recess. It is not seen that the structure of these claims is disclosed or suggested by Bonnema, et al. or Kristoffersson or the combination thereof.

Claims 20-24 require the elongated recess or recesses to be formed by two generally flat surfaces which define a triangle. It is not seen that this structure is disclosed or suggested by Bonnema, et al. or Kristoffersson. Claim 22, further, requires the end surfaces of elongated recesses to be triangular in shape. It is not seen that this structure is disclosed or suggested by Bonnema, et al. or Kristoffersson.

Thus, it is not seen that the combination of Bonnema, et al. and Kristoffersson disclose or suggest the structure of the lid of claims 1-25.

The patent to Thomas 5,791,098 was cited to show a rectangular shaped lid, however, neither Thomas nor the other patents cited disclose or suggest the structures of claims 1-25 as pointed out above.

Permission is requested to amend Figs. 2 and 10 as shown in red in the enclosed drawings thereof in conformance with the first four lines of page 2 of the specification and with Figs. 9 and 10 of the drawings. Note that the first four lines of page 2 of the specification refers to Figs. 9 and 10 and obviously Figs. 9 and 10 are cross-sections of Figs. 2.

In lines 34-36 of page 2 of the specification, reference is made to W2 which is indicated to have a dimension of 2½ inches. W1 is indicated to have a dimension of 2 inches. Thus, the W2 on the left of Fig. 10 should be removed since there is no reference in lines 34-36 of page 2 to this W2.

Also page 2, lines 34 and 35 refer to H1 as having a height of 1 ½ inches. This is the height of the member of Fig. 10 which is consistent with the other dimensions of the member of Fig. 10 and with line 33 of page 3 of the specification. Hence the addition of H1 to Fig. 3 is appropriate and not new matter.

The deepening of the two slots in Fig. 10 also is consistent with Figs. 2 and 9.

Permission also is requested to amend Fig. 6 as shown in red of the enclosed drawing thereof to correct the Fig.

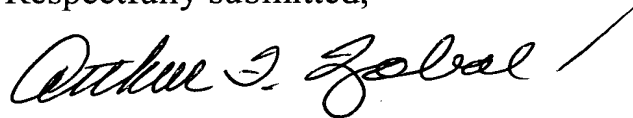
Enclosed is a Declaration by the inventor.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$129.00 for the additional claims, and a check in the amount of \$55.00 for the Request To Extend Time for one month.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is requested.

If any additional fees are required, please charge our deposit account No. 23-2770.

Respectfully submitted,



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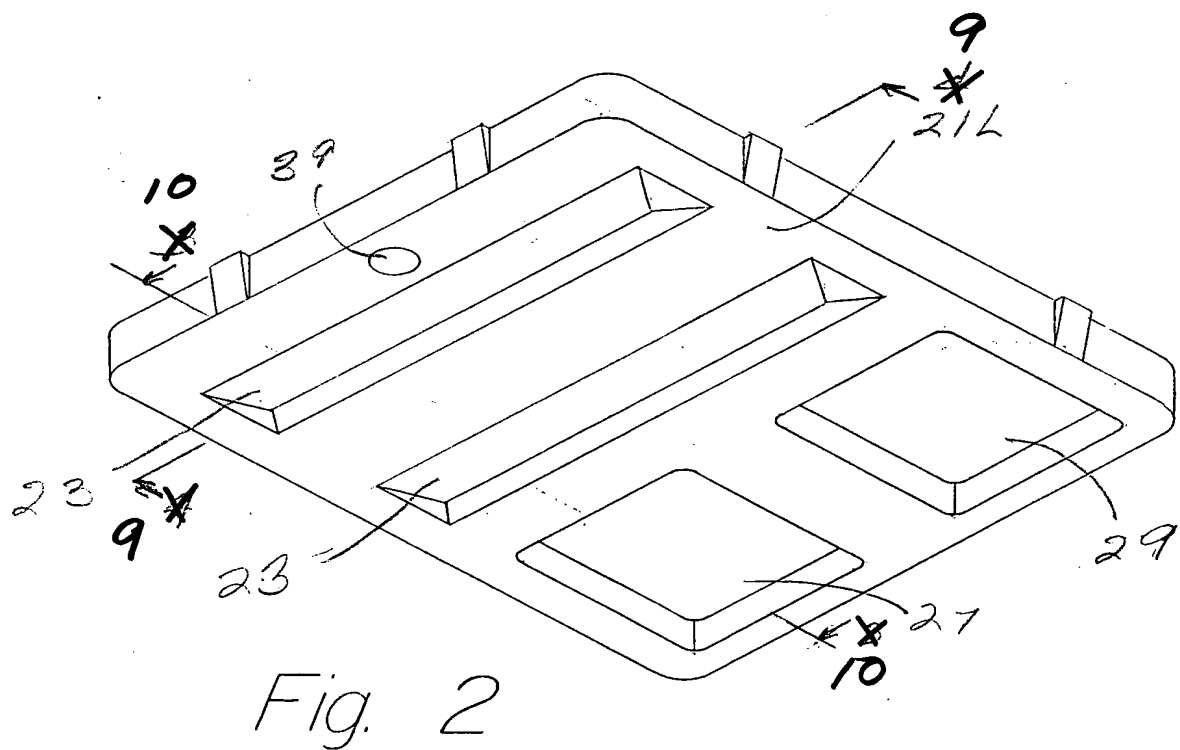
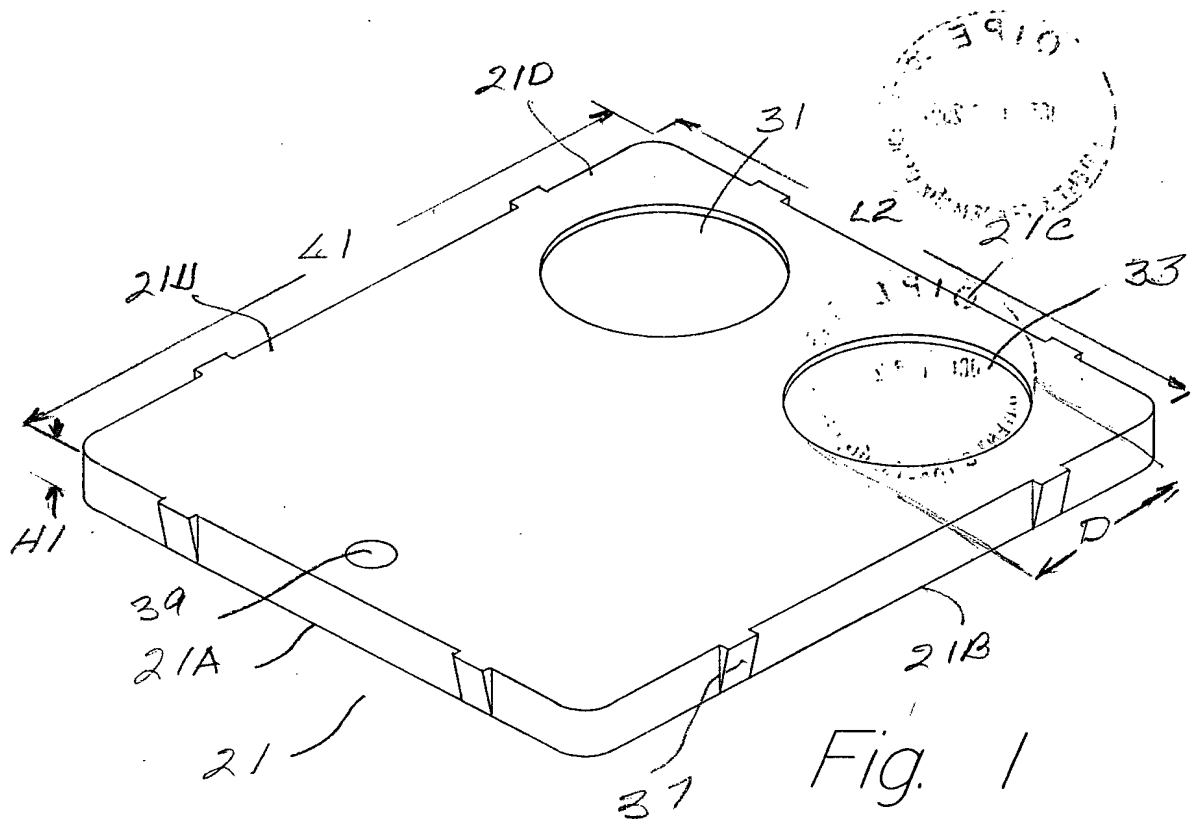
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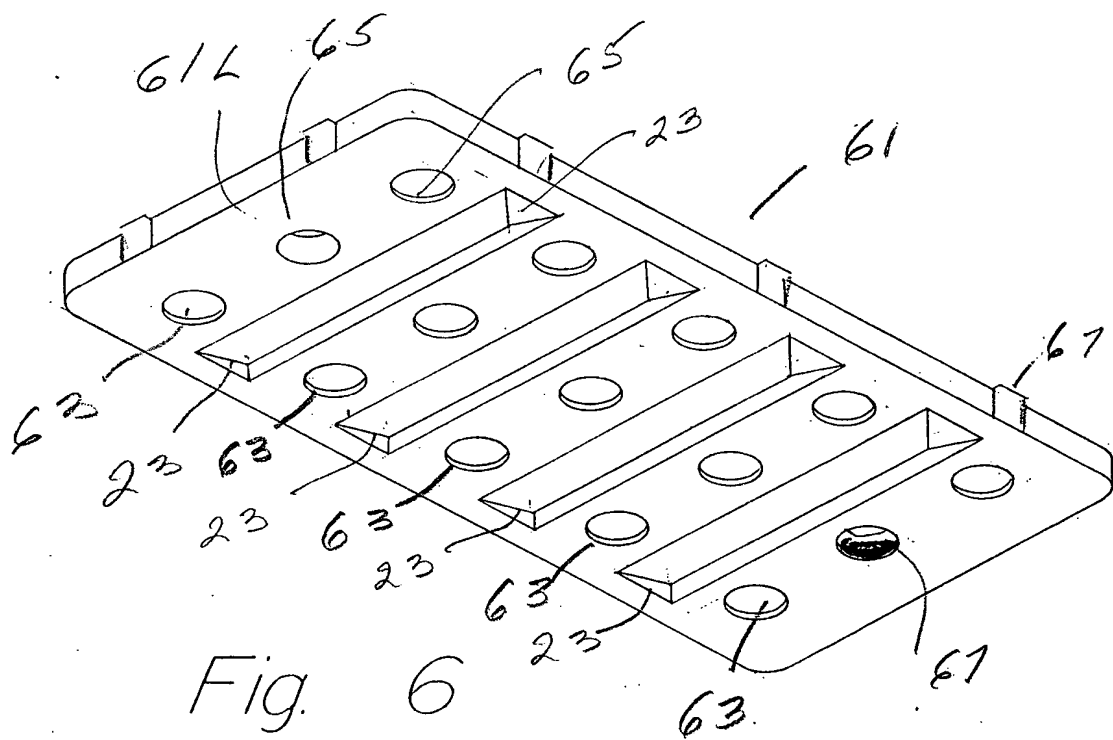
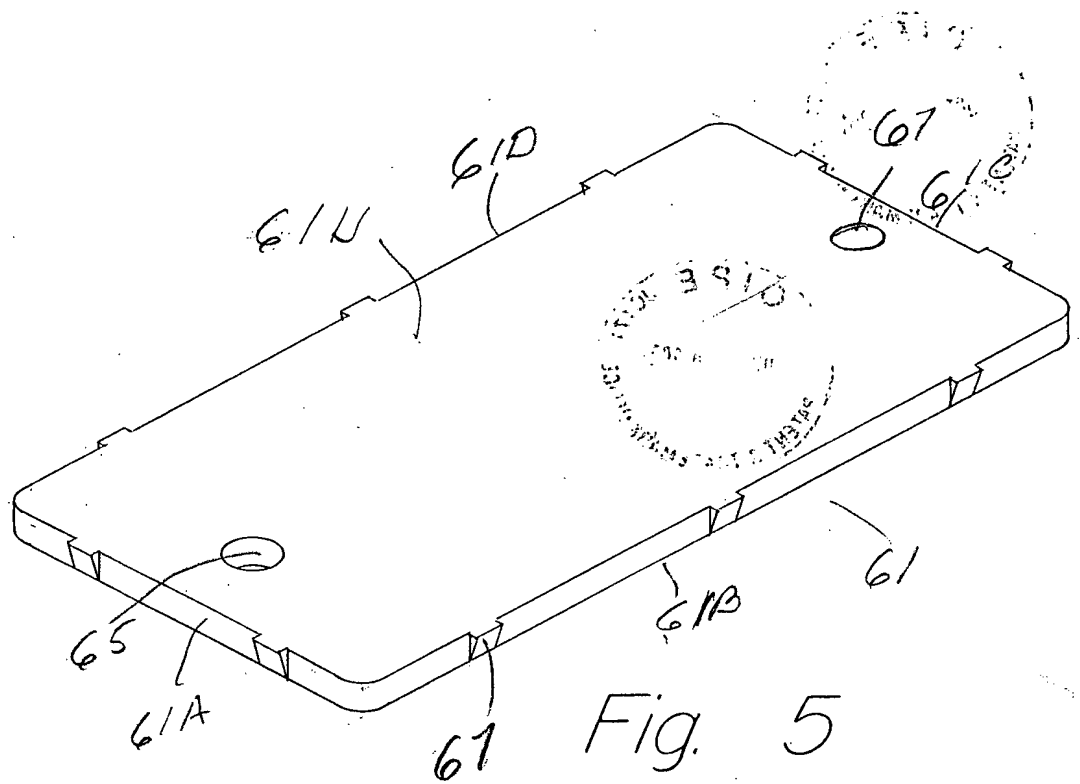


FIGURE 9

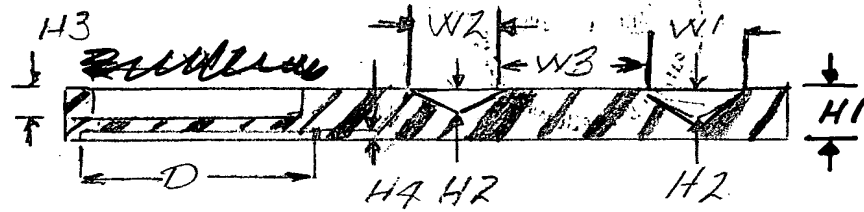
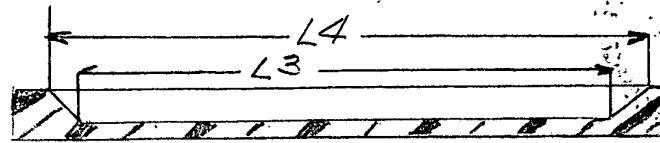


FIGURE 10